CUTTER

(1) Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to a cutter and more particularly, to a cutter which is adapted to efficiently cut a metal stud member and to a method for cutting a metal stud member.

(2) Background of the Invention

Metal stud members are used to construct walls and other portions of buildings and various structures. While these members provide significant structural advantages over wood and other members, they are relatively difficult to cut or sever.

Currently, these metal stud members are cut or severed by the use of a relatively costly and noisy apparatus which may undesirably produce sparks and other undesirably by-products (e.g., airborne metal particulates) which may be hazardous to one's health and which may create relatively serious environmental difficulties.

There is therefore a need for a new and improved cutter and a cutting methodology which is adapted to efficiently cut or sever a metal stud member and which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated drawbacks associated with prior metal stud cutting apparatuses and methodologies.

Summary of the Invention

It is a first non-limiting advantage of the present invention to provide a cutter which efficiently cuts a metal stud member and which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated disadvantages of prior cutter and methodologies.

It is a second non-limiting advantage of the present invention to provide a cutter which efficiently cuts a metal stud member and which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated disadvantages of prior cutter members and which may be further adapted to cut or sever a wide variety of members.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, a cutter is provided and includes a first support member; a second stud reception member which is perpendicularly attached to the first support member; and a second handle member which is attached to the first support member and which includes a pair of severing members.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, a cutter is provided and includes a metal stud reception assembly; and a cutting assembly which is deployed proximate to one end of the stud reception assembly and which is selectively movable between an open and a cutting position.

According a third aspect of the sent invention, a method for cutting a metal stud member is provided. The method includes the steps of stationarilly positioning the metal stud member upon a member; providing a pair of engagement positions; and selectively causing the pair of engagement portions to selectively cut the metal stud member.

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment of the invention and by reference to the following drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cutter made in accordance with the teachings of the preferred embodiment of the invention in combination with a user;

Figure 2 is a side view of the cutter which is shown in Figure 1 in an open position;

Figure 3 is a view which is substantially similar to the view of Figure 2 but showing the cutter in a closed position; and

Figure 4 is a top view of the cutter which is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment of the Invention

Referring now to Figures 1-4, there is shown a cutter 10 which is made in accordance with the teachings of the preferred embodiment of the invention.

Particularly, cutter 10 includes a first support member 12 which is adapted to be placed upon the ground 14 or other support surface and which includes a first relatively thin portion 16 and a second relatively thick portion 18. Member 12 may have a generally rectangular or substantially round/oval cross sectional area and may be formed from conventional steel or metal.

Portions 16 and 18 may have a substantially similar cross sectional area and portion 18 may be integrally formed with portion 16 or attached to portion 16 by a conventional attachment member. Cutter 10 further includes a metal stud reception member 20 which is attached to the portion 18 by the use of welded connections 22 or by substantially any other conventional connection methods. As shown, metal stud reception member 20 has a general rectangular or cross sectional area. Further, the longitudinal axis of symmetry 21 of member 20 is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of symmetry 13 of member 12 and hence, member 20 is "perpendicularly attached" to member 12. Moreover, member 20 has a thickness which is substantially similar to the

thickness of [redacted] metal stud 24. In [redacted]r non-limiting embodiments of the invention, member 20 may comprise a telescoping member in order to allow the member 20 to be dynamically adjustable along its length or longitudinal axis 13, effective to allow member 20 to operatively support a wide variety of studs 24 of different lengths. Member 20 further includes a pair of substantially identical feet 26, each of which is coupled to and/or integrally formed with a unique and opposed end of member 20, which are each perpendicularly coupled to member 20, and which cooperatively support member 20 upon the ground or support surface 14.

Cutter 10 further includes an outwardly projecting serpentine shaped handle member 30 having a first thin portion 31 which has an end which is adapted to be held in the hand 32 of a user 34 and a second relatively thick portion 36 which is attached to the portion 18 by bushing 38 or by substantially any other conventional attachment member or methodology. Further, handle member 30 includes a pair of substantially identical cutter or severing members 39, 40 which are respectively attached to the portion 36 by the use of bushings 42, 44. Portion 31 may be integrally formed with portion 36 and/or attached to portion 36 by a conventional attachment member.

Particularly, each cutting member 39, 40 includes a first member 50 and a pair of relatively sharp edged

engagement members 52, 54 which are each respectively attached to the respective member 50 by bushing 56. Hence, handle member 12 and severing members 39, 40 cooperatively form a "cutting assembly", while support member 16 and member 20 cooperatively form a support assembly. In an alternate embodiment, each member 54 may be attached to portion 18 by a respective bushing.

In operation, the stud member 24 is operatively and stationarilly placed upon the stud support member 20 while the cutter 10 is in the open position (see Figure 2). After the metal stud member 24 is stationarilly placed upon the support member 20, the handle member 30 is pushed or moved downward in the direction of allow 60, (see Figure 3), thereby causing the engagement members 52, 54 of each cutting member 39, 40 to cooperatively and efficiently sever or cut the stud member 24 without causing the relatively loud noise, sparks, and the creation of airborne metal particulates associated with and/or created by prior cutters.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact construction or method which has been illustrated and discussed above, but that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and the scope of the inventions as are more fully delineated in the following claims. It should be further understood that cutter 10 my selectively sever or cut

members while [illegible] composed or formed from [illegible]od or a variety of other materials.